

**Washington Department of Natural Resources Announces the
2010 Rural Fire Assistance
Program Guidance for the State of Washington**

On behalf of:

**Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
National Park Service (NPS)
US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**

APPLICATION OPENING DATE

MARCH 1, 2010

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE

April 16, 2010

Contact Information: For Pre-Application questions contact the representative for the applicable agency listed on page 5 of this announcement.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Table of Contents	2
SECTION I. Funding Opportunity Description	3
A. Legislative Authority	3
B. Project Background Information	3
C. Project Objective	3
D. Statement of Joint Objectives	3
E. Period of Project	4
SECTION II. Award Information	4
A. Expected Number of Awards	4
B. Estimated Total Program Funding	4
C. Award Ceiling	4
D. Assistance Instrument	4
SECTION III. Eligibility Information	4
A. Eligible Applicants	4
B. Cost Sharing or Matching	4
SECTION IV. Pre-Qualification and Submission Information	5-10

SECTION I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Legislative Authority: The Department of the Interior (DOI) and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, Fiscal Year 2001 (P.L. 106-291)¹ provided legislative authority to implement the Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) program in Fiscal Year (FY) 2001. The authority to fund and implement this program is established by Congress on a year-to-year basis. FY2010 has been requested in the President's Budget Request and has been approved by Congressional appropriation for approximately \$7 million. Please note that this funding is not guaranteed for subsequent fiscal years.

B. Project Background Information .The RFA program provides funding to improve the capacity and capabilities of rural and volunteer fire departments (RFDs) that protect rural communities and play a substantial cooperative role in the suppression of wildland fires within, or in the vicinity of lands managed by the DOI.

C. Project Objective: RFA is intended to increase local firefighter safety and enhance the fire protection capabilities of Rural Fire Departments (RFD) by providing basic wildland firefighting supplies and equipment to qualifying RFDs for initial and extended attack at the local level. The RFA program also seeks to decrease wildland fire-related losses to rural economies through enhanced local fire protection; and to help reduce Federal, state, tribal and local expenditures on wildland fire suppression, particularly in the wildland-urban interface.

D. Statement of Joint Objectives/Project Management Plan: The RFA program provides funding to rural and volunteer fire departments serving those communities in the vicinity of DOI lands with populations less than 10,000 persons. These departments must be party to a cooperative agreement with the DOI and/or their respective State Forester or equivalent entity. Eligible departments serve as cooperators with DOI in the suppression of wildland fires and that protect rural, wildland-urban interface communities within and in the vicinity of DOI lands. All application packages received by DOI bureaus within each state are reviewed and prioritized collaboratively by a panel of DOI and partnering agency representatives. Priority for, and amount of funding awarded per grantee is based on relative need, proximity to and partnership with DOI lands and bureaus, and other factors. Successful applicants will be notified and directed on procedures necessary to complete the application process.

All rural/volunteer fire departments must meet the following minimum eligibility criteria for assistance through the RFA program:

- 1. The department must be party to a Cooperative Agreement with an Interior Agency or Bureau, or their respective State Forester, or Tribe, or an equivalent entity.**
- 2. Local DOI bureau must be dependent on RFD for response to wildfire incidents.**
- 3. Must be able to meet cost share requirements, which may include in-kind services.**
- 4. The department serves a community with a population of 10,000 or less.**
- 5. A department serving communities with populations over 10,000 may qualify for RFA funding under the following circumstances:**
 - a. The service area of the department includes a rural area or community with a population of 10,000 or less. RFA funding must be used to benefit the rural service area.**
 - b. Departments operate entirely within the boundaries of the county or town of more**

¹ The United States Department of the Interior Budget Justifications and Performance Information Fiscal Year 2010, Wildland Fire Management, page 49.

than 10,000 that is serviced by two or more fire districts. The service area of a given district includes a rural area or community, or the population of the district's jurisdiction is less than 10,000. The RFA funding is used exclusively for the rural portion of the district.

- c. A fire department with at least one station that serves a community of more than 10,000 that also encompasses a rural zone or community with a population not exceeding 10,000. RFA funding must be used to benefit the rural service area.
- d. A fire department that serves a community of 10,000 or more that also provides fire protection services through contract or agreement to an adjoining rural community. RFA funding must be used to benefit the rural area services through the contract or agreement.

E. Period of Project: This announcement covers the RFA program implementation period for Fiscal Year 2010: October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010.

SECTION II. AWARD INFORMATION

A. Expected Number of Awards: unknown

B. Estimated Total Program Funding: \$7,000,000. This covers all of the DOI grants for the USA and territories.

C. Award Ceiling: The maximum award per grantee, per fiscal year, cannot exceed \$20,000. Funding may be used only for training, personnel protective equipment and basic wildland response gear, communications equipment limited to P-25 compliant handheld radios or mobile units for response vehicle, basic wildland response tools and equipment (hand tools, water handling equipment, fittings and accessories, etc.), and fire prevention activities specific to wildland fire management. The RFD must demonstrate the capability to meet cost share requirements which may include in-kind services. Funding or in-kind resources may not be derived from other federal funding programs.

D. Assistance Instrument: Grant/Cooperative Agreement.

SECTION III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants: Rural/volunteer fire departments, states agencies, counties, non-profits that must be party to an agreement with the State Forester (or equivalent) or Tribe, or a cooperative fire agreement with a DOI Bureau (BIA, BLM, NPS, USFWS).

B. Cost Sharing or Matching: The RFD must share a minimum of 10% of the total proposed project costs. The 10% RFD share may be direct funding of this portion of the total (cash) or may be covered by the allocation of in-kind goods or services. Examples of in-kind goods or services include facility use costs incurred by an RFD for hosting training courses, travel and per diem costs incurred by the RFD when personnel attend training courses, and administration costs related to purchasing RFA equipment and supplies. Funding or in-kind resources may not be used from other federal programs, and they may not be in-kind contributions that are counted towards any other federal grant contribution requirement. Fire departments may not apply administration costs or grant preparation fees as in-kind contributions

C. Eligible Supplies or Equipment:

The following categories of items are allowable for the FY 2010 RFA program in Washington, in no particular order:

- **Personal Protective Equipment and Basic Gear**
- **New Generation Fire Shelters and Case (Training shelters also allowable)**
- **Communications equipment (P-25 compliant hand-held radios, mobile units for ground vehicles, pagers)**
- **Basic Tools/Equipment**
- **Apparatus purchased from local DOI units through “negotiated fixed price sale” authority**
- **Other equipment**

As a general rule, equipment is to be of the same basic type and quality as GSA-issue items. It is recognized many local fire department cooperators do not have GSA purchase authority and must purchase items from vendors.

All purchases should meet Local, State, and Federal regulations and safety guidelines.

Custom made or higher-priced upgraded items will not be funded but departments may choose to upgrade items at their expense.

For specific guidance on allowable items please see the table at the end of this document.

FY 2010 RFA Purchasing Guideline		
Category / Item	Allowed	NOT ALLOWED
PPE		
Nomex shirt / pants or coveralls	Standard GSA issue design or equivalent	Non-standard, Kevlar or other fire-resistive material Boots Socks, thermal underwear Brush jackets, structural bunker/turnout gear
Protective accessories	New generation fire shelters, training shelters Basic OSHA-approved goggles; earplugs or headset Standard GSA issue type hardhat	No structural firefighting safety gear
Fireline packs	Standard GSA issue- style line pack/belt assembly, accessory canteens fusees	custom-made packs, personal gear bags Sleeping bags
Headlamps	Standard GSA style or equivalent	
Reflective vests	Class 2 or 3 ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 compliant reflective safety vests (for roadway/roadside incidents)	Non-compliant vests
Apparatus	Retired brush trucks, engines etc. through local office negotiated fixed- price sale arrangement	ATVs or any OHV equipment, “gator” type utility vehicles
Pumps and accessories	Pumps or slip on units for apparatus new, refurbished or repairs, hose, fittings, related equipment. Reflective decals/ markings for apparatus. Portable pumps and accessories, dip tanks	Wildland fire only, no structural firefighting equipment
Hand Tools/ misc. accessories	Pulaskis, shovels, McCleods, swatters, rakes, gas/oil cans, belt weather kits, krestles, drip touches, fusees	wildland fire only, no structural firefighting equipment
Power Tools	Chainsaws and basic accessories	Generators
Communications	P-25 compliant hand-held, mobile units, base stations; accessories: charging bases, extra batteries, installation hardware as needed, pagers for areas with no cell coverage	Non P-25 compliant units; “walkie- talkies” or two-way radios; cell phones
Other Equipment	GPS units for reporting and mapping	GPS accessories (additional software, carrying cases, etc.)

SECTION IV. PRE-QUALIFICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. To Request Pre-Qualification Package:

Please contact the applicable representative listed. Assume new one listed.

DOI FY2010 - Rural Fire Assistance Contact List				
WA	BIA	Cory Winnie	503-231-6759 (office) 503-231-6777 (Fax)	Cory.Winnie@gmail.com
WA	BLM	Lauren Maloney	503-808-6587 503-808-6799 (Fax)	Lauren_Maloney@blm.gov
WA	FWS	Rico George	503-703-5949	Rico_George@fws.gov
WA	NPS	Matt Johnson	530-295-5614	Matthew_Johnson@nps.gov
WA	State	Bob Bannon	360-902-1315	Bob.bannon@dnr.wa.gov

B. Submission/Selection Date PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY:

NO applications are to be sent to the National DOI Agencies.

To apply, simply download the application from the Washington DNR fire district Assistance website at http://www.dnr.wa.gov/RecreationEducation/Topics/FireInformation/Pages/rp_fire_dnrfdassistprog.aspx

Save the application as a word document, fill out completely, **AND EMAIL TO THE RFA CONTACT FOR THE AGENCY YOU ARE APPLYING FOR. FAXED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

If you receive notification of receipt by e mail

Selections will be announced no later than June 1, 2010.